WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Pension cases of Army Personnel

3368. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pension cases of war injured army personnel posted in Sri Lanka on an IPKF mission in 1988 have not yet been settled;

(b) if so, the reasons for an inordinate delay in settling such cases;

(c) the number of such cases still pending; and

(d) the time by when such cases are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Import of Anti Land-Mine Vehicles

†3369. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that heavy losses have been suffered by military vehicles many times in terms of human life and property through land mines due to internal disturbances in several States of North-East and Kashmir;

(b) the number of persons died as well as those rendered handicapped in such incidents during the last three years;

(c) whether Government are considering to import anti land-mine vehicles; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Losses are occasionally suffered by Army in counter insurgency operations in North Eastern States and Jammu & Kashmir in terms of human life and property as a result of mines/IED blasts.

(b) The number of Army personnel killed in counter insurgency operations in J&K and North Eastern States during the last three years (1997—1999) as a result of mines/IED blasts in 91. The details of disabled army personnel as a result of mines/IED blasts are not readily available.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) 90 Mine Protected Vehicles (MPVs) have already been imported and deployed in the Northern and Eastern Commands. Action to acquire more MPVs is being taken.

Problem of Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir

3370. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goverment's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Clinton ke daure se pahle hi ghati mein tabahi ki sazish" as appearing in the Dainik Jagran dated 7th February, 2000;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Government are aware of the news report regarding efforts to upgrade the militancy in J&K before the visit of US President.

Adequate measures have been taken to check infiltration from across the border and to tackle the problem of terrorism in J&K. Three tier deployment is being maintained and operations are carried out in the hinterland to deal with terrorists who have infiltrated.

News-Item "Pakistan plotting Kargil type offensive"

3371. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned Pakistan plotting Kargil type offensive as reported in the "Times of India', dated the 31st January, 2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Pakistani military planners have directed big mercenary groups to attempt to cut-off the Jammu-Srinagar and Jammu-Poonch highways in a bid to isolate the troops stationed on LoC among other plans on lightly held heights; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to combat the aggression?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Government are aware of Media reports regarding the Pakistani intention of opening new Kargil like fronts. Our troops have been alerted and are vigilant to effectively counter any such Pakistani threat.